

# Burden Of Dulles . . . . . By Marquis Childs

## Signs Of Progress Appear

TO BE Secretary of State in our times of troubles is to be chained to the wheel of ceaselessly turning events. It calls for a stoic acceptance of all the tricks of fate that may determine not merely one's personal destiny, which is a small enough matter in the larger tapestry, but the destiny of peoples and civilizations.



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wracked by an earthquake of revolutionary change.

For John Foster Dulles, the office was the culmination of a life-long hope, a dream, an ambition. But at the same time he realized that no other Secretary of State, with the possible exception of the period of our own Revolution and perhaps the four years of the Civil War, had ever faced such a task.

The problem was not alone overseas, it was also here at home. The Central Intelligence Agency compiles for various Government departments a confidential survey of opinion in this country showing the degree of acceptance of Government policies. Shortly after he took over, Dulles asked to see reports of previous years covering the State Department and the policies of his predecessor. These reports showed that acceptance for many months prior to January 20 had never been above 30 percent.

THEREFORE Dulles conceived it as his first duty to try to rebuild confidence both in Congress and in the public. It was no good going off to Europe or Asia and negotiating a treaty if when you came back your handiwork was rejected both in the Senate and with public opinion.

Dulles' loyal associates observing the rise and fall and rise again of his fortunes in the past eight months believe that he had to say certain things and take certain steps in an effort to rehabilitate the department in public opinion. There are many, including a number in the State Depart-

ment about it in the wrong way. But Dulles' stock is rising on the bourse of opinion not only here but in Europe where it has been at a low point.

For those close to him this represents the beginning of another phase of a cycle that had to be gone through with—first the bitter and then the sweet, or at any rate the sweeter. The area of responsibility has been so vast, the outlines not always clearly marked, that the Secretary has had not only to do but undo operational details that should have been the function of subordinates.

Take as an example the "case" of Mrs. Mildred McAfee Horton who was invited to serve as the United States representative on the Economic and Social Commission of the United Nations. An FBI report on Mrs. Horton showed certain derogatory "associations" and this material came to Dulles' attention as he was about to start on his important trip to the Middle East, India and Pakistan. Only the Secretary himself could approve forwarding the nomination to the Senate.

DULLES knew that he himself would have to take steps, once the nomination went to the Senate, to overcome opposition there. That is what he had done in the appointment of Charles Bohlen to be Ambassador to Moscow. Mrs. Horton was to serve for only two weeks and time would run out. The invitation to her was withdrawn.

But as soon as he could after returning from his trip, Dulles asked Mrs. Horton to talk with him. He explained the circumstances and at the same time he offered her an appointment to another commission not connected with the United Nations which he said he did with the President's consent. For various reasons, Mrs. Horton was unable to accept.

In the hopeful view of those close to Dulles, the underbrush of suspicion and hostility is being cleared away. And the fruits of the Secretary's first eight months are becoming

visible. The sun of great good luck in the ripening process is not discounted. But even with due allowance the list is impressive.

The popular triumph for Chancellor Adenauer, with the virtual exclusion of extremes of right and left, at the recent elections in Germany has given a big push to the European Defense Community. It is now taken as virtually certain that the French Parliament will ratify EDC perhaps before the first of the year.

In Egypt the British and French are getting on with talks to settle the Suez Canal quarrel. Dulles' visit to Cairo helped materially. A friendlier regime has taken over in Iran with the possibility that with American mediation a settlement of the oil dispute can be reached.

While no one expects a negotiated peace in Korea the fighting has ended. As to Indo-China, firm words backed by firm action offer at least a hope that that bitter and long drawn out war can be concluded. One can add other items to the list. These are not "solutions" of the problems of the world, as Dulles knows best of all. But they are at least a beginning.

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